



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 197

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1000

Senate, March 27, 2013

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD EXAMINATION SERIES PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-5c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) The Department of Education [may] shall establish a board
4 examination series [pilot] program to allow local and regional boards
5 of education to permit students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, to
6 substitute achievement of a passing score on an examination or a series
7 of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for the high
8 school graduation requirements pursuant to section 10-221a. Not later
9 than January 1, 2014, the department shall approve or develop
10 examinations that may be used as part of the board examination series
11 program. The State Board of Education shall issue a board examination
12 certificate to any student who has successfully completed such
13 program. Such board examination certificate shall be considered in the
14 same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining

15 eligibility of a student for enrollment at a public institution of higher
16 education in this state.

17 (b) Notwithstanding the high school graduation requirements
18 pursuant to section 10-221a, for the school year commencing July 1,
19 [2011] 2014, and each school year thereafter, a local or regional board
20 of education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon
21 the successful completion of the board examination series program
22 described in subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2013	10-5c

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	500,000- 1,000,000	500,000- 1,000,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the State Department of Education (SDE) of between \$500,000 and \$1 million, as the bill requires, rather than allows, SDE to establish a program that allows students to fulfill high school graduation requirements by earning a passing score on examinations. The cost to SDE is associated with purchasing, distributing, and scoring the examinations. There are approximately fifty subject tests available for purchase. The yearly cost of the contract would be dependent upon the number of subjects and the volume of tests administered and scored. Local and regional school districts would also incur a minimal cost associated with administering tests, including testing materials, and additional staff time to facilitate the tests.

Alternatively, if SDE were to develop and implement their own tests, rather than purchase them through a third party vendor, the cost would be significantly higher, as SDE would have to hire additional full-time staff, create the tests, validate the various tests, distribute and

score the tests. However, the bill does not require SDE to do so.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of subject tests and the volume of tests administered.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1000*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD EXAMINATION SERIES PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires, rather than allows, the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish a program that allows students to fulfill high school graduation requirements by earning a passing score on examinations. SDE has chosen not to establish such a program to date.

The bill requires SDE, by January 1, 2014, to approve or develop the examinations that may be used in the program. It allows a student to pass a single exam under this program, as an alternative to passing a series of exams. The bill delays, until the 2014-15 school year, when local or regional boards of education must allow students to graduate from high school after completing the board examination series with passing scores.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND***High School Graduation Requirements***

Students who achieve passing scores on the board examination series fulfill graduation requirements that include completion of a minimum number of required credit hours in prescribed subject areas (20 credits through the 2018-19 academic year and 25 credits on and after the 2019-20 year). The State Board of Education must give a board examination certificate to any student who successfully completes the SDE program, which Connecticut public colleges and universities must equate with a high school diploma when determining whether a student is eligible to enroll.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/13/2013)